

Amendment to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to FIG. 3. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 3-4, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 3-4. In FIG. 3, reference numeral 50a has been changed to 46a.

Remarks/Arguments:

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-19 are pending. Claim 1-4, 6-10, 12-17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,555,851) ("Lee"). Claims 5, 11 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee.

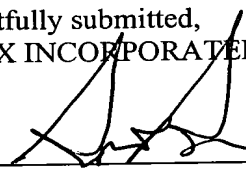
It is respectfully submitted that there are aspects of the instant invention that are not taught, suggest or implied by Lee. In particular, claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "the key ring and the plug configured to enable the optical fiber and the plug to be inserted into the housing in only a single orientation." Claims 7 and 13 have been similarly amended.

In contrast, Lee actually teaches away from a plug and fiber being inserted into a housing in only a single orientation. In particular, FIG. 4 of Lee clearly indicates that the key ring may be inserted into the recess in multiple orientations, since each recess and key is sized and shaped identically.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Date: 11-17-2004

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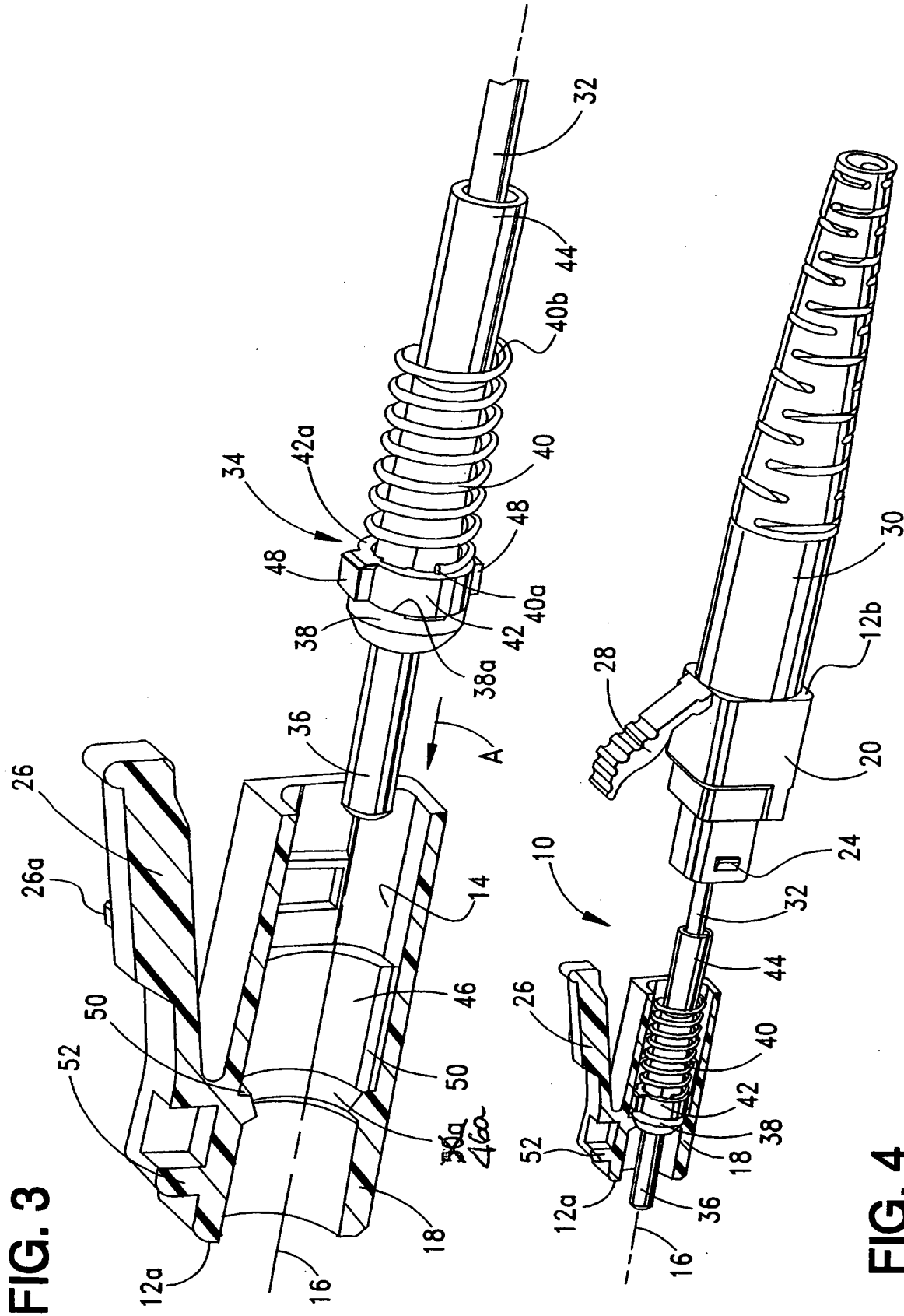


FIG. 3

FIG. 4